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Dear Colleagues

Thanks to all adult educators who attended regional meetings November 27-December 1 to kick off KYAE's regional program support strategy. It was a pleasure for me to see many of you again and to meet new colleagues. The KYAE staff thoroughly appreciates the fact that you took valuable time to travel to a site in your region and thanks you for providing important ideas and insights on many cutting-edge issues. It's essential that we all feel comfortable talking to each other about how we can continue advancing educational attainment in Kentucky. I look forward to hearing from colleagues at the Region 1 meeting scheduled for December 14 in Hopkinsville.

As KYAE staff members continue to explore with you new ways of improving student outcomes, it's important that we reconsider issues such as enrollment goals, the performance and accountability policy, family literacy and professional development, among many other issues. You brought up all of these policy areas in the regional meetings held to date and I'm sure we will continue to discuss them as we move into 2007.

KYAE staff left each meeting with a list of follow-up items, which we are working on now. Early in 2007, we will have responses prepared for many of the questions and will share them with the entire field.

I wish everyone in the adult education community a very Happy Holidays and hope you enjoy a peaceful, restful celebration. I am delighted to be working with you and look forward to more great adult education success in 2007.

Helping students with financial aid forms

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA), in cooperation with the Lumina Foundation, KHEAA and The Student Loan Peoplesm, is sponsoring College Goal Sunday to help high school and adult students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This event will be held January 28, 2007.

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Financial aid professionals will be available at 20 sites in 19 Kentucky communities to walk students through the 2007-2008 FAFSA. Families attending College Goal Sunday should bring all the information needed for filling out their tax forms. Financial aid professionals will help them use that information to complete the FAFSA.

Students should plan to arrive by 2 p.m. For more information, including a list of Kentucky sites and materials to bring, visit the [KASFAA Web site](#), or call toll free (888) 452-7322. This is a great opportunity for your students to take their first steps toward postsecondary education.

Casey County Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Mickey Lafavers for being named Educator of the Year by the Casey County Chamber of Commerce for his work at the Casey County Adult Education Center for the past four years.



“Mickey brought a wealth of practical experience and teaching background to this position,” said David Wiles, the chief officer of the Somerset Community College’s Office of Community, Workforce and Economic Development. “He used his long experience in marketing, public relations and customer service, which he learned during his 30-year career as owner/operator of an automobile dealership, to help make the Casey County Adult Education Program a success.”

During the time that Lafavers has been the director of Casey County Adult Education, the program has helped 176 people earn their GEDs and 133 students transition to Somerset Community College.

Congratulations to Jefferson County

ProLiteracy America is conducting research concerning best practices in adult education and ESL programs that use volunteers to provide additional support. Jefferson County Adult Education has been selected as one of eight exemplary programs in the nation. Jefferson County will provide data and expertise to help create a model program for volunteers in adult education with a special emphasis on ESL and will mentor other programs. Congratulations to our colleagues in Jefferson County. More information about ProLiteracy America is available at its [Web site](#).

Please share alternative funding opportunities

The KYAE Advisory Committee requested a list of adult education funding opportunities other than KYAE funding. We are turning to providers for this information. What kind of funding have you pursued outside the usual KYAE state and federal funding? What advice do you offer to providers who want to identify supplemental sources of funding? Please respond to Benita.Wilhoite@ky.gov by January 15 so the Advisory Committee can explore this issue and KYAE can share information across the Commonwealth.

GED Wizard update

KYAE and Oklahoma Scoring Service will pilot test the GED Wizard online application and demographic process with six test centers and the associated adult education programs. Once testing

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is complete, KYAE will announce when the GED Wizard process will be available for use by all programs. The notice will provide time for review of the GED Wizard training [available online](#). We will keep you informed as pilot testing proceeds.

Bogus GED Web sites

KYAE continues to receive calls and complaints about online companies purporting to offer a GED and/or high school diploma. KYAE is working with the Council's Communications Office and the Attorney General's Office to issue a news release concerning fraudulent GED Web sites, which claim to offer a GED. KYAE is interested in personal stories of students who have used one of these Web sites only to find they did not have an official GED. If you know a student who would be willing to be interviewed, please contact Dr. B.J. Helton at BJ.Helton@ky.gov.

Kentucky represented at Dollar General Guest Presentation Series

Kentucky was well represented at the first in a series of Dollar General Guest Presentation meetings held in conjunction with the National Coalition for Literacy (NCL). Presenting were Sarah Hindman Hawker, vice president for KYAE; Janet Hoover, senior associate, KYAE; and Bev Thomson, program director, Christian County Adult Education. The series, which kicked off in Nashville, focuses on building partnerships between businesses and literacy programs. A summary of the meeting and information about other meetings in the series are available at the [NCL Web site](#).

Lexington in Top 10 Educated Cities



The 2005 Current Population Survey found Lexington to be the 10th most educated city in the United States with 39.5 percent of its population age 25 and older possessing a bachelor's degree or higher.

Seattle tops the list with 52.7 percent of its adult population possessing at least a bachelor's degree. Rounding out the top five were San Francisco, 50.1 percent; Raleigh, North Carolina, 50.1 percent; Washington, D.C., 45.3 percent; and Austin, Texas, 44.1 percent. These top five educated cities are also on the list of the top 25 most prosperous cities.

The sixth through ninth cities were Minneapolis, 43.2 percent; Atlanta, 42.4 percent; Boston, 40.9 percent; and San Diego, 40.4 percent.

PD updates ESL

On January 26, KYAE will offer a follow-up training to the ESL Summer Workshop presented in August – "Developing Multilevel ESL Learning Stations Targeting Life Skills and the CASAS Competencies." The workshop will be at the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

Sara Gutting and Marilyn Garvey, Indiana adult educators, will present. According to Joyce Bullock, KYAE associate, instructors will learn a wealth of excellent ESL teaching methods at this workshop, even those who do not use learning stations. Registration is through [PDtrack](#).

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Orientation to Reading and Writing

Two-day workshops in Orientation to Reading and Writing will be offered January, March and May. The workshops objectives will cover:

- Applying instructional strategies for teaching adult reading and writing
- Recognizing how a variety of teaching strategies can improve performance
- Identifying and applying various reading assessment techniques

Dates and locations are:

- January 11-12, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (if inclement weather, rescheduled for January 25-26)
- March 22-23, Hopkinsville Community and Technical College
- May 17-18, Hazard Community College

This training is sponsored by KAELI, part of the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development at UK. The trainers are Phyllis McAdams, retired writing specialist, and Susan McShane, reading specialist from the National Center for Family Literacy. Sign up today in [PDtrack](#).

Grant writing

A workshop on grant writing is scheduled for February 26-28 at the University of Louisville – Shelby Campus. The Grant Institute’s “Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop” is for researchers, faculty and graduate students and will include certification in professional grant writing for participants. The registration fee is \$597 and can be paid with KYAE PD funds. Participants will receive 3 PDUs for successful completion. Register at www.thegrantinstitute.com. This training can be extremely useful to programs seeking funds from organizations and foundations to add support to their programs.

KYAE staff members recognized by colleagues

The Kentucky Association for Economic Development (KAED) presented Martha Fightmaster, KYAE Region 5 program support associate, with the Allied Professional of the Year award at its annual conference in November. The award recognizes economic development contributions from individuals who go “above and beyond their call of duty to support and grow the economy in their community, as well as the region and the state.”

At its October conference, the Kentucky Association of Adult and Continuing Education recognized Toni Quire as the 2006 KYAE Supporter of the Year. Toni was honored for her invaluable assistance with helping providers successfully navigate and understand PDtrack in the past year.

Congratulations to Toni and Martha!

Please allow us to introduce...

“Please allow us to introduce...” is a monthly feature spotlighting KYAE staff members to help adult educators become more familiar with KYAE staff. This issue features Josh Glover and Linda Pankratz.

If you need a staff contact for particular subject areas, check the [Staff Listing by Service Topics](#).

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Josh Glover

Josh Glover provides support for KYAE's GED staff and has daily contact with GED graduates from across the Commonwealth. Among his duties are receiving and filling daily transcript and diploma requests and mailing GED test results to students.

Josh is a Kentucky GED graduate who is married and lives in Frankfort. Before joining the KYAE staff, he worked in restaurant management and in plumbing but enjoys his work in the GED area because adult education "has helped me better myself and I know it will do the same for so many others."

Fun fact: Josh is the lead singer in a rock band called War on Terror.

Linda Pankratz

Linda Pankratz, who has been at KYAE since August 2005, has recently taken on the new role of program support associate for Region 3. Linda has 17 years experience providing support to local providers from her work in the Office of Employment and Training. She has a background in employer relations, Rapid Response for dislocated workers and labor market information and a bachelor's degree in business management from Jacksonville State University in Alabama.

She says through her work with Rapid Response, "I have witnessed many success stories of dislocated workers who received their GED and went on to higher education and high-demand occupations that will ensure them a job for years to come."

Linda lives in Versailles with her husband of 36 years. They have two daughters who are both teachers in the public school system.

Fun fact: Linda enjoys traveling all over the United States, playing bridge and taking care of Maggie, her adopted dog.

Correction on AERIN information

CORRECTION: The November 2006 *News to Use* included inaccurate instructions on how to make staff inactive in different program type codes. Follow the steps below when staff members leave a program:

- Immediately notify either Tammy Powers at Tammy.Powers@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 114, or Terry Tackett at Terry.Tackett@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 107, so the AERIN login ID may be revoked.
- Next, change the person's status to inactive on the **Staff General Information** screen and click Save.
- All program type codes listed on the **Staff Locations/Programs** screen will now reflect an inactive status.

Redesigned NRS Web site

A redesigned NRS Web site was launched at www.nrsweb.org. A brief outline of changes is available at www.nrsweb.org/siteupdates.aspx – visit this link to learn about the topical presentation of information and new features.

Valuable links

KYAE has created a [KYAE Advisory Committee Web page](#), which contains a list of members and the committee charge. Minutes of the meetings will also be posted.

The [Annenburg Channel](#) provides media for ESL and adult education instruction.